

# **Virgil I. (Gus) Grissom papers**

## **S548**

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February 14, 2015

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts  
140 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204  
317-232-3671

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Creator</b>	McCullough, George
<b>Title</b>	Virgil I. (Gus) Grissom papers
<b>Date</b>	1964/04/28
<b>Extent</b>	0.01 Cubic feet 1 folder
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Text [Folder]</b>	S548

### Preferred Citation

Virgil I. (Gus) Grissom papers, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

## Biographical Note

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Virgil Ivan "Gus" Grissom was born April 3, 1926 in Mitchell, Indiana to Dennis David and Cecil[e] King Grissom. He was the oldest of four children. He completed one year of pre-cadet training in the U.S. Army Air Corps, was inducted into the Air Corps in August 1944 and was discharged in November, with the rank of corporal. He married Betty L. Moore on July 6, 1945, and they had two sons. He was graduated from Purdue University in February 1950, with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering.

He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1951, commissioned as a second lieutenant and flew 100 missions overseas, during the Korean War. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal. When he returned to the United States, remaining in the military, he became a jet instructor and test pilot, specializing in advanced-design fighter plans, logging more than 4,600 hours as an airplane pilot, 3, 500 in jet aircraft. In August of 1955, he entered the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio to study aeronautical engineering.

In April 1959, he was selected as one of the first 7 astronauts, known as the "Mercury 7". He was the second man in space in 1961, but his Project Mercury capsule was lost at sea. He then oversaw the design and commanded the first manned mission of the Gemini program. He and a colleague flew around the earth in three orbits on October 23, 1965.

He died January 17, 1967, during a test on the launch pad at Cape Canaveral, Florida. He, Ed White and Roger Chaffee, the crew chosen for the Apollo I mission, were trapped in the capsule by fire and killed. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

"Grissom, Virgil Ivan 'Gus'". Find a Grave Memorial. Retrieved 2015/01/23. <http://www.findagrave.com>

"Grissom, Virgil Ivan". (1981) In *Indiana Authors and Their Books, 1967-1980*. (p. 156). Crawfordsville, IN: Wabash College. Print. ISLI 16.810 B291I SUPP. 1967-80

"Grissom, Virgil I. Gus". Virgil I Gus Grissom Memorial Museum. Retrieved 2015/01/23. [http://in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-grissom\\_brochure.pdf](http://in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-grissom_brochure.pdf)

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection includes a typed, signed letter from Virgil I. (Gus) Grissom in Houston, Texas on 1964/04/28 regarding George McCullough's support for the space program.

## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged chronologically.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

### Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation from Virgil I. (Gus) Grissom on 1965/01.

### Accruals

No further additions are expected.

### Processing Information

Collection processing completed 2015/01/23 by Edythe Huffman. EAD finding aid created 2015/01/23 by Edythe Huffman.

## Controlled Access Headings

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### Corporate Name(s)

- United States. National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

### Geographic Name(s)

- Houston (Tex.)

### Personal Name(s)

- Grissom, Virgil I.

### Subject(s)

- Correspondence